

DONNELLSON PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER
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THROUGH THE APPLE ORCHARDS



*On down through the apple orchards,
When the trees are bending low,
We just love to slowly wander,
Sun-kissed faces all aglow!*

*Then we play a game between us. . .
Who will be the first to find
Out of all the red-cheeked beauties
The very largest of its kind.*

*Every limb seems to be groaning
With the burden that it bears;
Through the orchard's sanctuary
O what fragrances it shares.*

*We just love to slowly wander
Sun-kissed faces all aglow,
On down through the apple orchards
When the trees are bending low!*

Courtesy: IDEALS, Vol 27, No. 5, Georgia B. Adams



Happenings

“The public library is where place and possibility meet.” — Stuart Dybek, author

Library happenings are written and submitted by Brenda Knox, Director of the Donnellson Library, unless otherwise posted.

Story Hour for Preschool Kids

We have resumed Story Hour for Preschool kids on Tuesday mornings, 10:00 a.m. So far, only kids from the YMCA daycare have been attending, but they have been enjoying our themed reading of picture books, and music and movement activities. Librarians Brenda Knox and Marty Miller have been in charge of the classes. The first week, the theme was bears, and second was dogs. We had no attendance for the other weeks in September, but we hope we can gradually begin inviting other families that use the library to attend with their young children and build the program.

Story Hour kids are always accompanied by a responsible adult. Right now, we have sessions for about ½ hour, due the young ages of the children attending, and the preference of the daycare provider. Please call the library at 319/835-5545 if you would like to know more about preschool Story Hour.

The Donnellson Book Core



This month, the book for discussion is entitled: *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Michele Richardson, and it is about horseback librarians in the Appalachian Mountains before and during the Great Depression. It promises to be an interesting discussion.

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek

by Kim Michele Richardson

Here is what the site GOODREADS has to say about this popular novel:

In 1936, tucked deep into the woods of Troublesome Creek, KY, lives blue-skinned 19-year-old Cussy Carter, the last living female of the rare Blue People ancestry.

The lonely young Appalachian woman joins the historical Pack Horse Library Project of Kentucky and becomes a librarian, riding across slippery creek beds and up treacherous mountains on her faithful mule to deliver books and other reading material to the impoverished hill people of Eastern Kentucky.

Along her dangerous route, Cussy, known to the mountain folk as Bluet, confronts those suspicious of her damselfly-blue skin and the government's new book program. She befriends hardscrabble and complex fellow Kentuckians, and is fiercely determined to bring comfort and joy, instill literacy, and give to those who have nothing, a bookly respite, a fleeting retreat to faraway lands.

Next month, we will read a classic from Agatha Christie: *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*. Please let the librarians know if you would like to be a part of our book club. Members donate toward our

postage fund and buy one trade paperback novel to be part of a set we can loan to other libraries each year, usually during the month of May.

Other Library News



Despite the ongoing pandemic, people are using the library in increasing numbers. We ask that you wear a mask while in the library. Kids who are unvaccinated should always wear masks. Speaking of kids, we would love to see them in the library, and encourage independent reading all year. One thing that parents of kids may need

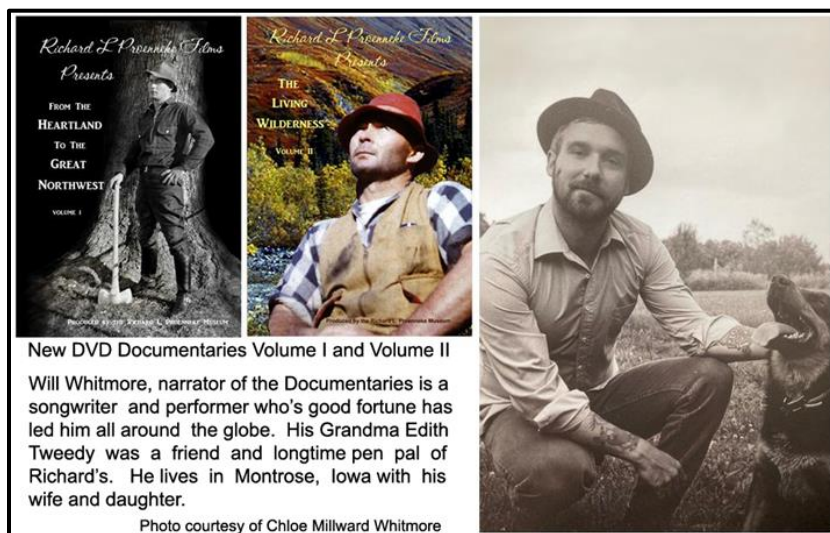
to know is that we do restrict the amount kids spend online playing games to ½ hour right now. That is because we need to distance people at the computer workstations for health reasons, and kids playing games online are not a top priority, compared to kids doing homework, research for classes, or adults doing online classes, job applications, etc. We thank you for your understanding.

Trick or Treat at the Library!

The City of Donnellson is holding Beggar’s Night on Saturday, Oct. 30 this year, from 5:30-8:00 p.m. Intrepid Librarians Victoria Matlock, Shannon Schneider, and Toni Peterson have decided to dress up, hand out candy, and have our library available for patron use during that time. Please stop in and have the kids say “Trick or Treat.” If you give permission, we will be taking snapshots for our Facebook Page! Here is a photo of “Broom Hilda” from years past!



Richard L Proenneke Museum



This is the caribou calf Richard tried to save by taking it back to his cabin, fearing its mother was dead. You can read more about little "Mae" in Richard Proenneke's Journal "The Early Years" beginning with the entry of May 11th & 12th, 1969.

The following is from an email sent to us by Art McMillan:

I very much enjoyed both volumes of the Richard L. Proenneke Films. If you are not sure of the date of the film clip of the combining of oats, presumably filmed by Richard. I can narrow it down to sometime between 1938, and Dec.7th. 1941. I have personally spent many, many hours driving/operating both of the tractors in that clip. The tractor pulling the Combine is the 1936 Model A, John Deere. The smaller tractor that was used to pull the wagons to either the grain storage room in the South barn, or the adjacent granary that was just West of the South barn, is the 1938 Model B, Allis Chalmers tractor. The Combine is an Allis Chalmers, PTO driven, with a five-foot cutter bar. The location is at the William Amos McMillan farm, with my father Dwight H. McMillan hiring the Proenneke boys to help him get the crops in. William [McMillan] being 80 years old in 1938.

The tractor, corn picker, and wagon shown, evidently was the Proenneke's, as I was only two and a half months old Dec. 7th. 1941. When I turned 10 years old, I was trained by dad to drive the Model B, Allis Chalmers, and was turned loose in the fields, the beginning of those many, many hours in the fields, which ended when the farm was up for sale, and I came to Kansas City in Oct. 1961. What happened to those tractors and Combine I do not know! They were there when, I left!

I am the only one of my siblings, who still considers Harrison township, Lee County, Iowa my home probably because that farmhouse 1/2 mile north of the Proenneke's was my birthplace. But I had to do a double take when, I seen the choice of Richards films that was used to represent "The Heartland"! There is absolutely no way I can thank you enough for your choice of films. Hopefully, you will have to replenish your supply of these volumes many times.

Another bit of information regarding our association with the Proenneke's. I first saw the bear rug, where it was stretched out on the living room floor, in the Proenneke home in Primrose. I do not recall the occasion, why we were invited, my brother Donald and I, when we were nine, and ten. Were both given airplane rides in Raymond's Piper J3, with him having a runway mowed in the hayfield, just north of their house. for him to land and take off on. My older sister Elaine maintained correspondence with Florence, until Florence's death in 2003, and Raymond, until Elaine's death 2011.

Your friend of the Donnellson Library, Richard L. Proenneke Museum, in Kansas City, Ks.

Art McMillan

To learn more about Richard's life, check out the two new DVD Documentaries "*From The Heartland To the Great Northwest*" and "The Living Wilderness" now available at our website richardproenneke.com or at the Richard L Proenneke Museum in the Donnellson Library". And don't forget to check out Richard's written words in the *Journals of Richard L. Proenneke*.

Documentary Volume I - "From The Heartland To the Great Northwest" This Documentary represents Richard Proenneke's beginning into the art of film making from the very first attempts in the late 1930's at his home in Primrose, Iowa and his move to the Wilkinson Ranch in Heppner, Oregon in early 1940; the disruption of WW II and his entry into the US Navy; to Portland Oregon and his preparation to make the move to Alaska.

Documentary Volume II - "The Living Wilderness"

In this Documentary Richard, now living on Kodiak Island, AK, continues to document his life through film, recording his experiences at Kodiak, Sawmill Lake and Cape Chiniak. He would meet "Spike" and Hope Carrithers, Sam Keith, Babe Alsworth, Terry and Vic Gill. Entering a new path, Richard sets out on a new course at Twin Lakes, from the challenges of winter survival to salvaging a crashed plane.

The Journals of Richard L. Proenneke



Are you a Richard Proenneke fan? Consider joining us by helping out and at the same time learning about this amazing man who grew up in our “backyard”. Drop us a line at:

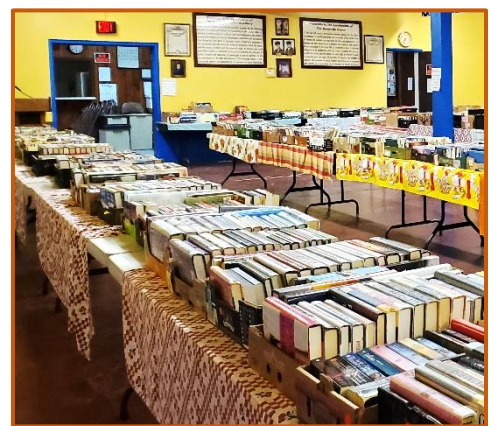
Brenda Knox, Librarian: bknox@donnellson.lib.is.us

Brie Anderson, Richard Proenneke Museum Curator: brie@richardproenneke.com

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY



FALL BOOK SALE



L to R: Chris Strunk, Diane Kruse, and Debbie Bailey, members of the Friends of the Donnellson Public Library group, volunteer at the book sale held at the Donnellson American Legion. The money raised from the free-will donation, Bailey said, goes to help the library with wish list items not in their budget. ~ Angie Holland, *Daily Democrat*

It was a perfect day for the Friends of the Library activities in Donnellson. This year the October book sale was accompanied by a multitude of yard and bake sales in the area as well as the Big Guy Barbeque truck, a popular local favorite at lunch time. Everyone had customers all day long because there was “something for everyone”. To make it easier for all shoppers, activities were noted on a map created by Friends members to make finding the locations easier.

The book sale again was held at the American Legion Hall on Oak Street and because of the overwhelming donations of books by our many patrons and the Donnellson Library and additions kept from the previous sale (“Blind date with a Book” and craft ideas with old books) and two new ones (Pumpkins/Pods), we are proud to add \$1,136. With the success we had at our sale in June (\$1,261), both sales totaled \$2,397 for 2021.

A super, huge thank you goes out to Friends members from the book sorters (Sharon Meierotto and Diane Kruse) to the organizer (Diane), our publicity team (Deb Bailey and Sam Strange), our set-up and cleanup crews (Diane/Aaron Kruse, Deb Bailey/Sam Strange, Mary Ann Philp, and Chris and Lester Strunk) who donated their time to make this another outstanding event. Also, thank you to our many patrons who supported our effort. Several patrons stated they watch for our sales every year and bring their own sacks and book lists. Other comments we heard were “You guys have the best book sale in the area” and since there were other activities going on “the book sale was our first stop on the list”.

The Friends will continue their support each year by hosting two book sales in June and the Fall. As always, location, date and time will be announced with flyers, press releases and through the local monthly library newsletter. See you all next year! ~ **Written and submitted by Diane Kruse**

Writers' Bloc



The September meeting of the Writers' Bloc was held at 1:00 p.m. 15 September in the Local & Family History Department of the Donnellson Public Library. Attending were Marty Miller and Diane and Aaron Kruse.

The meeting was held a week early due to the rigid schedule for getting ready for the upcoming fall book sale. Marty is fascinated with hummingbirds and decided to write a poem about them. There are two versions of “To a Hummingbird” since she wrote them at different times and decided to bring both versions to share at the meeting. The shorter version is very cryptic, but the second version provides a fuller understanding of the poem.

Diane mentioned since her draft copy of a book and reference materials are in the Department, she has been working with several others interested in the rural schools.

The next meeting will be held 20 October in the library. ~ **Written and submitted by Diane and Aaron Kruse**

A September Suggested Reading

Monsters, real and imagined, are as old as the over-active imagination of Homo Sapiens. Early man sat around the fire with members of his tribe and related stories of the bear which killed his grandfather with teeth and claws despite carrying a spear in its chest, and which (typically) couldn't be killed by hunters. Then there were always a few rogue big cats – lion, leopard, saber tooth, etc. – which had developed a taste for human flesh and was too smart to be hunted or trapped by any member of the tribe. These are often real creatures and make their appearance today from time to time. Seafarers loved their tales of giant squid and whales which purposely ran down the sailing ships of the day and took down unsuspecting crew members and sometimes whole ships.

Today we still have our tales of UFOs, alien visitors, and the sasquatch. But most of our monsters today – tremendously popular in movies and books – concern the supernatural or humans afflicted with malfunctioning brain software. Zombies, witches, werewolves, vampires, and your ordinary vindictive spirit out for revenge make great fodder for writers and producers alike.

The Science of Monsters is a study of the characters at the center of many horror movies of recent years, such as *A Nightmare on Elm Street*, *Psycho*, *Jennifer's Body*, and *The Silence of the Lambs*, and attempts to explain on what or who the character is based. Sections include studies of deadly animals, visitors from outer space, sea-going carnivores, and other phenomena. The authors are long-time writers and broadcasters in the horror genre.

Highly recommended for analytical minds interested in the origins of these legends and firelight stories. ~ **Written and submitted by Aaron Kruse**



Local & Family History Department

The month of September proved to be another very busy month for our Local and Family History volunteers. Many requests for family research were received and the Department logged in a multitude of donations.

~ Sharon Meierotto continued to update Lee County obituaries and Diane Kruse continued filing with the local Illinois, Missouri, and Van Buren obits.

~ Diane continues to sort and file in family albums filed in alphabetical order in the back of the department on the lower shelves. In the past month, several more have been donated and are being

cataloged before placement on the shelf. If you have a family album you would like to donate it, we will be happy to accept your copy or make a copy and return the original to you.

~ John Stuekerjuergen remarked on the visit of Cynthia Chambers in August newsletter regarding the Quaker settlement of New Garden. John plans to do more research on the subject and would like more information from the Local & Family History Department. Diane forwarded an article dated January 3, 2013, dealing with the St. Paul area Quakers and how they helped fugitive slaves reach freedom. A photograph of the New Garden Quaker Pioneer Cemetery appears at the beginning of the article compiled by Lauren Zechin.

~ Pat Morrison donated several books for our church segment. They are as follows: New Hope united Methodist Church, Souvenir Album for the 75th Anniversary of St. John's Evangelical Congregation (1848-1923), and a 1991 Directory of St. John's United Church of Christ. Also in the package was an autobiography of H.M. Patterson and his travels. All donations are in the process of being catalogued.

~ Articles from the local newspaper continue to be filed in the newly created Pioneer Cemetery Commission file. This commission was revamped as a set up to check on the state and upkeep of cemeteries and evaluate what can be done to improve them.

~ A large bag of old-fashion Christmas cards were donated by Orien Lowenberg. All old cards are welcome and are used in many holiday displays. Patrons can find them filed in the small leather card albums.

~ Barbara Schau would like some assistance in finding more information on Nellie Olson. Nellie is buried in the Primrose Cemetery in an unmarked grave. However, there is a funeral home marker.

~ Two more scrapbooks were received from Larry Graf. These two books will be added to the one received last year and all three will be entitled the Graf Family Collection. These books are in the process of being cataloged and then reviewed by Sharon Meierotto for possible information to update the Lee County obituary records.

~ Jan and Evan Blankenberg donated information in a scrapbook and a family file. Evan's family scrapbook will be filed with other scrapbooks and Jan's family information will be placed in a Beaudine/Blankenberg Family file. Both are in the process of being catalogued.

~ Diane is working with Kenny Tull and Jeff Buford on the Waverly rural schoolhouse information. The old schoolhouse (modified) has been in the Buford family since 1969. Kenny is acquiring and organizing information on the schoolhouse.

~ Received a phone call from Sarajane Ruggles in Coeur d' Alene, ID. Correspondence has been exchanged over the last 1 ½ years regarding the Peter Derr family. Sarajane recently received additional information regarding her Derr search and wished to confirm if we have the information on file or would help research a little further to verify what she just received. Review of our files and other sources are being conducted.

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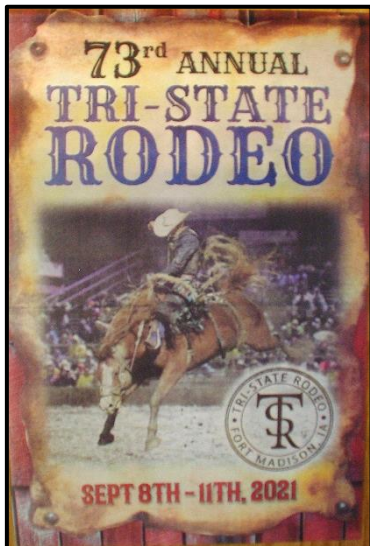


Finally, a reminder the Local & Family History Department has professionally printed maps, in color, of the Lee County Atlases. The atlases are dated 1874, 1897, and 1916 and show the farms and landholdings listed by the name of the owner. The maps are printed on heavy paper and suitable for framing. The cost is \$5 each.

Local and Family History September Display

Below are the photographs from the special display for September covering five of the festivals celebrated every year in September.

Photographs and display design by Diane Kruse.





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